

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page, 1, after the title, please insert the following heading:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.**

Please amend the fifth paragraph on page 3 as follows:

A cross-bar controller is provided for efficient allocation of the bandwidth across the cross-bar. It calculates the rates that each ingress means must transmit to each egress means. This is the same as the rate at which data must be transmitted from each packet queue. The calculation makes use of real-time information, including traffic measurements and indications from the ingress means. The indications from the ingress means include monitoring the current rates, queue lengths and buffer full flags. The details of the calculation are discussed ~~more rigorously~~ in the copending UK Patent Application Number 9907313.2 docket number F21558/98P4863).

Page 4, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following heading:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace the first paragraph on page 7 with the following new paragraph and heading:

Other objects, advantages and novel features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the invention when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 7, between lines 9 and 10, add the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the first paragraph on page 13 as follows:

~~It will be readily understood that although~~ Although the preceding discussion has been in terms of terabit routers, the apparatus of the present invention are capable of implementation in a wide variety of switching devices, including switches and routers, and that these devices can be either purely electronic, part electronic/part optical in nature.

After the first paragraph on page 13, please add the following new paragraph:

The foregoing disclosure has been set forth merely to illustrate the invention and is not intended to be limiting. Since modifications of the disclosed embodiments incorporating the spirit and substance of the invention may occur

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to persons skilled in the art, the invention should be construed to include  
everything within the scope of the appended claims and equivalents thereof.